

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Each February, African-American History Month—or Black History Month— honors the struggles and triumphs of millions of American citizens over the most devastating obstacles — slavery, prejudice, poverty — as well as their contributions to the nation’s cultural and political life.

Black History Month was the inspiration of Carter G. Woodson, a noted scholar and historian, who instituted Negro History Week in 1926. He chose the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and the abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

The celebration was expanded to a month in 1976, the nation’s bicentennial. President Gerald R. Ford urged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.”

The special theme of the year 2011 is *African Americans and the Civil War*



DVDs

The American Resource Center has a collection of some 500 videocassettes featuring American society and culture. All films are in VHS/PAL or DVD/PAL format and they are available for home and educational use free of charge. The loan period is 2 weeks.

If you have questions about the programs, please contact the American Resource

ALICE WALKER: "EVERYDAY USE"

26 minutes, produced in 2005

This is a filmed adaptation of Alice Walker's short story "Everyday Use." It is the story of Maggie, who has not ventured outside her rural community, who sees the old family quilt – an heirloom already promised to her – as something with practical utility as well as tradition. Her more worldly, educated sister wants to hang it on the wall as art. With whom will their mother agree?

AMERICA BEYOND THE COLOR LINE

220 minutes, produced in 2003

In four programs, Gates travels to four different parts of America - the East Coast, the deep South, inner-city Chicago and Hollywood. He explores this rich and diverse landscape, social as well as geographic, and meets the people who are defining black America, from the most famous and influential - Colin Powell, Quincy Jones, Samuel L. Jackson, Fannie Mae's Franklin Raines, Jesse Jackson, Russell Simmons, Chris Tucker, Alicia Keys, Maya Angelou, Morgan Freeman - to those at the grassroots.

BARACK OBAMA

47 minutes, produced in 2008

When he called himself "a skinny kid with a funny name" at the 2004 Democratic National Convention, his star was already rising. By the time he triumphed in the 2004 Illinois Senate race, he was the golden child of a Democratic party in desperate need of a charismatic leader.

BOYCOTT

112 minutes, produced in 2001

Boycott is the story of Rosa Parks and the birth of the modern era Civil Rights movement 49 years ago. When mild-mannered seamstress Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama in 1955, events were set

in motion that would change history. After Rosa's arrest and while waiting for her appeal, the newly created Montgomery Improvement Association decides to start a boycott of the buses. To lead them, they elect 26-year-old Martin Luther King, Jr., a new minister and recent transplant to the community. The boycott lasted 381 days and resulted in the Supreme Court ruling on November 13, 1956 that bus segregation was unconstitutional.

CITIZEN KING

120 minutes, produced in 2004

Citizen King pushes past the myths that have obscured King's story to reclaim the history of a people's leader. Using the personal recollections, diaries, letters, and eyewitness accounts of friends, family, journalists, law enforcement officers and historians, this film brings fresh insights to King's difficult journey, his charismatic -- if at times flawed -- leadership, and his truly remarkable impact.

FOR LOVE OF LIBERTY: THE STORY OF AMERICA'S BLACK PATRIOTS

35 minutes, produced in 2010

This documentary tells the story of America's Black Patriots. Now it's your turn to tell yours. During your service to this great nation, you shared unique experiences, moments of heroism, acts of courage, and above all, a love of liberty. Now you can share your story or the story of a comrade with other visitors of this site. Or, perhaps you're a close friend or family member of a United States Army Veteran. Salute your Soldier's years of dedicated service by sharing his/her story. Stories can be told through text and uploading a photo.

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

50 minutes, produced in 2005

As a young man, he experienced the brutality of slavery firsthand. As an outspoken leader of the abolitionist movement, he became one of the most powerful voices in American history.

GREAT HEARTS OF COURAGE: MARTIN LUTHER KING

25 minutes, produced in 2010

Preacher and activist Dr. King (1929-68) led the pivotal protests of the Civil Rights movement, including the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott, the 1963 March on Washington, and the 1965 March from Selma to Montgomery. The youngest person ever to receive the Nobel Peace Prize (at age 35), Dr. King is a human rights icon and one of the greatest speakers in American history.

LEGACY

90 minutes, produced in 1999

Legacy is the five-year long story of one family's triumphant journey out of poverty and despair. The film follows the Collins family, an African-American family in Chicago. Through the powerful and dignified voices of women from three generations of the Collins family, the inspiring story is told of how members of one family, broke free of welfare, recovered from substance abuse and escaped the specter of violence in their community.

LET FREEDOM SING

102 minutes, produced in 2009

Let Freedom Sing retells one of the most important stories in American history in a dramatically new way. Billie Holiday's song about lynching, "Strange Fruit," takes us back to the era of brutally enforced segregation. And then the story sweeps us to the heart of the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s and explores its impact on music, politics and culture in the decades that followed. There are dramatic first-person accounts by Mississippi Freedom Riders who sang to give themselves courage in the face of danger. There are the songs from the 1963 March on Washington when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his "I Have a Dream" speech. And there are award-winning artists and musicians whose songs inspired generations to take up the struggle for civil rights and human rights throughout America and the world. Included are: Mahalia Jackson, Marvin Gaye, Nina Simone, Aretha Franklin, Chuck D, James Brown, Hugh Masekela, Curtis Mayfield, the Staple Singers, Bob Marley, Five Blind Boys, Stevie Wonder, Pete Seeger and many others.

MUHAMMAD ALI: MADE IN MIAMI

60 minutes, produced in 2008

In 1960, a young boxer named Cassius Clay came to Miami, determined to become world heavyweight

champion. In the end, he became something more — a legend. Combining original footage with interviews of those who were closest to him — including his trainer, Angelo Dundee, fight doctor Ferdie Pacheco, and Ali's Miami neighbors and friends — *Muhammad Ali: Made in Miami* is the story of that evolution, as well as a chronicle of Miami's historic black community and the famed Fifth Street Gym. See why, without Miami, there might never have been a Muhammad Ali.

ROADS TO MEMPHIS

79 minutes, produced in 2010

The assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. took place in Memphis, Tennessee 42 years ago. *Roads to Memphis* tells the story of the assassin, James Earl Ray, and his target, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The film also captures the turbulent forces at that time in American society that led these two men to their violent and tragic collision in Memphis. This is neither a strict biography of James Earl Ray, nor a repetition of familiar highlights from King's final months. It is a thought-provoking portrait of America in the crisis-laden year of 1968, in which Senator Robert Kennedy (President John Kennedy's brother) was assassinated only a month prior to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s killing. Major players related to King and Ray offer insightful commentary.

THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

106 minutes, produced in 1995

The Tuskegee Airmen is an inspirational and powerfully told story of some of the men among the first black aviators in the US military. The film details how the legendary African American fighter pilots of World War II, overcame racism for the right to serve their country and emerged from World War II wreathed with honor. The "Fightin' 99th" was the first squadron of Black combat fighter pilots and the forerunners of nearly 1,000 Black fliers. The film itself focuses on the struggles of a group of college-educated, patriotic African-Americans who enlist as airmen as part of a government training program in Tuskegee, Alabama, during the height of World War II.